

FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

Here we are into 2004 already and Winter has been quite hard here in Ontario with many small snowfalls necessitating a lot of shovelling. Last week we had some very warm temperatures and all the snow on our lawn disappeared. However, yesterday brought a fresh fall, so I guess Winter is going to hang around for a while yet!

Now I have to bring you all a plea for help with our journal. Ian Hunter, who has been doing the Marine Invertebrates, has to resign as Associate Editor since he has recently married and bought a new house. This means lots of work renovating so we have to find a new Editor for those people who collect that subject. I know there is one member who collects nothing else, as she has e-mailed me to ask when the column does (did?) not appear. If any of you are able to take this on, Ian has said he is willing to help a new person get started.

In addition to the above, we have had no Herpetology column for a long while. I have e-mailed Saul Friess on a number of occasions, but do not get an answer, so I have no idea if there is a problem. If anyone would care to take this on, the Unit would be extremely grateful. It is not rocket science, in fact a monthly copy of the Scott Monthly journal and typewriter or computer and you are in business. PLEASE HELP!

We have one new item in this issue of the journal, as Chris Dahle has sent a couple of UPU press releases about issues purporting to be from Ivory Coast or the area of Morocco, but which actually have no connection to the countries whatever. These releases from the UPU and the work being done by the F.I.P. seems to be gaining momentum over the past couple of years to try and curb the excessive printings of material that has no postal validity whatever.

While on the subject of something new, it would certainly be great to have more short items from members similar to "*The Oilbird*" and "*The Iriomote Cat*" from Roy Rings and "*Little Known Russian Postal Stationery*" and "*First Philatelic Materials with Silk*" by Vladimir Katchan, which appeared in 2003.

Randall Shore and Chuck Braun seem to be able to find a wealth of new material in the area of birds, which I guess is not hard to understand, as it has been a very large part of philatelic Biology for many years, and it seems that the number of bird issues does not diminish with time. Keep in mind the ATA show in Memphis in June - details will be found in this journal.

Until next time.

Alan J. Hanks